

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Prosecution of the above-identified application as the "submission" required to be filed with that Request under 37 CFR 1.114.

At the time of the filing of this Amendment and its associated Request for Continued Examination, Claims 1-10 stood allowed, a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due had been issued, and the issue fee that was due on or before 13 October 2003 had not been paid. By the foregoing Amendment, Applicants have added Claims 11-18. No claims have been amended and no claims have been canceled. Accordingly, upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-18 will constitute the claims actively pending in this application.

In reviewing Claims 1-10 (which were allowed in the first Official Action) prior to the payment of the issue fee in the above-identified application, Applicants have noted that the scope of Claims 1-10 is not as broad as that of the invention disclosed in the present specification, nor as broad as the claim scope that Applicants believe the prior art will allow. Accordingly, the Request for Continued Examination filed concurrently herewith is for the purpose of obtaining examination of the foregoing Claims 11-18 that Applicants respectfully submit are appropriately supported by the present specification, but broader in scope than Claims 1-10 heretofore found to be allowable in this application.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-18 as they will stand upon the entry of the foregoing Amendment are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration of newly presented Claims 11-18 and a decision allowing Claims 1-18 in response to this communication are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required in connection with the consideration of this Amendment. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, as necessary, for the correct payment of all fees which may be due in connection with the filing and consideration of this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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